

FORM NO. 51-AAA
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 5 April 1952

SUBJECT Monazite Mine at Söktang-ni in North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

- Before the Korean war the monazite mine at Söktang-ni (125-30, 38-25) (YC-1855) was worked by several thousand laborers, but because of air raids and a shortage of labor the mine was closed in 1950. The mine was reopened in December 1951 by a directive from the North Korean government. The reason was the Soviet Union's urgent requirement for materials used in the manufacture of atomic explosives.¹
- Laborers at the Söktang-ni mine were to work ten hours per day, for which they were to be paid 900 North Korean won monthly. They were to receive in addition two meals daily. The quota for each miner was four kilograms of monazite sand per day, but in December none of the miners was able to achieve that figure.² The monazite was packed in 50-kilogram boxes and shipped to the north. Some miners believed that the destination was Manchuria.

25X1

- ☐ Comment. Although this statement appears to be an assumption ☐ rather than part of any government announcement, it is possibly true. The percentage of fissionable material in monazite sands is very small, although in 1949, 7,000 tons were shipped to the Soviet Union, and in 1950, 10,000 tons, ☐
- ☐ Comment. This suggests that the quantity of easily-mined sands at the Söktang-ni mine is low. Workers at the Ch'ölsan monazite mines were required to produce from three to 7.5 kilograms, or about seven to 17 pounds, of unwashed sands daily, depending on the quality of the area mined, ☐

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	<input type="checkbox"/>
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input type="checkbox"/>

Document No. 010
 No Change in Class. ☒
☐ Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth.: HR 70-2
 Date: SEP 12

25X1